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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD

COUNTRY	USSR	DATE OF INFORMATION	1949
SUBJECT	Economic - Logging		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	DATE DIST. 30	Jan 1950
WHERE PUBLISHED	Petrozavodsk	NO. OF PAGES	4
DATE PUBLISHED	18 - 30 Oct 1949	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
LANGUAGE	Russian		

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SOURCE Leninskoye Znamya.

TIMBER INDUSTRY PERSONNEL DISCUSS ACHIEVEMENTS, SHORTCOMINGS

DEPUTY MINISTER REVIEWS IMPROVEMENTS -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 214, 29 Oct 49

A plenum of the Central Committee of trade union workers engaged in logging and timber floating has begun in Moscow.

Lopukhov, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR, and Vas'kov, chairman of the Central Committee, discussed the tasks of trade union organizations and measures which are necessary to fulfill the 1949-1950 fall and winter season logging plan.

Enterprises of the timber industry have received thousands of mobile electric power plants, skidding tractors, logging trucks, steam locomotives, and electric saws. The timber industry has been converted into a leading mechanized branch of the national economy. Mechanization has enabled the industry to adopt the continuous method of operations, a method which considerably increases labor productivity.

The prewar timber transport level has been exceeded. Many enterprises in Ryazan, Voronezh, and Kalinin oblasts, in the Belorussian and other republics have completed the year plan ahead of time. The best tractor drivers, machinists, machine operators, and other trade union workers, employing the latest technological methods, have put out two and three norms.

A total of 67 experimental-model timber managements have been set up in timber-felling regions; 50 of them have been completely mechanized. Mechanization increases timber transport 1½ times.

Enterprises of the timber industry are giving the country almost one fourth more timber in the current fall and winter season than in the corresponding period of last year's season.

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FOREMEN'S ROLE DIFFICULT -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 215, 30 Oct 49

Foremen form the largest group of supervisory personnel in socialist industry. They are in the thick of the fight for fulfilling the plan and are, naturally, the militant organizers of production successes.

Thus, in the timber industry also the foremen are the central figures in organizing production.

Timber industry foremen are drawn from people with average technical training. Present-day foremen cannot be compared with those of former years. The latter were merely timber inspectors; the former are in charge of production at a timber center and are responsible for fulfillment of the center's production plan.

Demands made on foremen have increased commensurately with the development of technical equipment and the increase in production volume.

One way in which foremen are handicapped is that the supervisors of timber managements and logging points do not operate through them. This practice undermines the authority of the foremen.

Foremen have also been assigned irksome supplementary duties. At the Kyappesel'ga Logging Point, for instance, they are responsible for hauling firewood and water and for giving out tools and parts. They should be freed from such duties so that they can devote themselves to the task of organizing production among the fallers.

A foreman of the Koverskiy Logging Point reports that he has up to 200 men at his timber center. Naturally, that is too many for one foreman. However, a similar situation exists at other logging points. It is time that the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry definitely defined the size of a foreman's timber force.

Mechanized logging requires that foremen be acquainted with the basic technical skills. However, many of them do not yet know these basic skills, so it is necessary for them to study and thus improve their qualifications.

Increasing the importance of the foreman's role is a consideration of prime importance which must be taken up by the republic Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry.

PROPOSES SEMINARS FOR FOREMEN -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 215, 30 Oct 49

Ya. Ivenov, a foreman at the Koverskiy Logging Point of Olonets Timber Management, writes that organization of production is the most important task of the foreman, and that to keep step with the increase in mechanization the foreman must study systematically to increase his technical skill. However, there is no technical literature at either the Koverskiy Logging Point or the Olonets Timber Management.

Ivanov states that during his 4 years at the logging point he does not recall that the foremen were given any opportunity to exchange experiences or to listen to practical advice on how to improve labor organization at their timber centers.

He proposes that 2-day seminars be held each month for the foremen at which specialists sent by the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry would lecture.

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He says that there are 200 workers in his timber center, but that in his opinion a foreman cannot supervise more than 50 workers. He requests the ministry to consider this problem.

FOREMAN COMPLAINS OF WORK STOPPAGES -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 206, 18 Oct 49

I. Pozdnyakov, a foreman of the Bogataya Sel'ga Timber Center, Kyappsel'ga Logging Point, Kondopoga Timber Management, writes that many work stoppages are occurring at his timber center.

On 5 and 6 October, the center did not work because there was no gasoline. Although Grobov, chief of the logging point, had known that it was running out, he made no effort to replenish the supply in time. Consequently, hundreds of cubic meters of production were lost.

The foreman states that, in spite of repeated requests, Grobov has not provided the workers' quarters with beds, hot-water tanks, or wash basins. Because of lack of living space at the center, many workers are compelled to live in the village of Shaydom, 20 kilometers from their work, and in the central settlement, 25 kilometers away. They ride to the forest on uncovered vehicles, and it is no longer summer. The vehicles do not arrive on time. On 7 October, some workers arrived for work at 1200, losing a half day's work.

The foremen of the center are assigned the supplementary duties of distributing tools and parts, hauling firewood, water, etc. These duties require a considerable amount of time and divert the foremen from their primary tasks. The foremen should be relieved of these extra duties.

Finally, Pozdnyakov complains that the ideological and political education of the foremen is being neglected. No speeches or lectures have been given for a long time, and newspapers are received in batches instead of weekly.

WORKERS CHARGE MISMANAGEMENT -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 206, 18 Oct 49

In a letter to this newspaper, two workers of Maysul Timber Center, Raymokoskiy Logging Point, Suoyarvi Timber Management, state that while all workers in the Soviet Union are at this time striving to show high production results in honor of the 32d anniversary of the October Revolution, and while they themselves have pledged to put out from 1½-2 norms during the pre-anniversary period, enthusiasm for attaining the goal is lacking among supervisory personnel.

Although the workers at the Timber center have the desire, skill, and equipment to work, from the very first days of the fall and winter season their enterprise has not been fulfilling the plan. Workers are unwillingly sitting around and doing nothing.

The difficulty lies in poor supervision, lack of organization, and working conditions which are not conducive to a high level of output.

For instance, on 1 October, the first day of the season, all workers of the Maysul Timber Center went to the forest early in the morning. However, no one knew what he was to do. Even though Inlyukov, the chief of the logging point, was present, no one was in charge of assigning the men to specific work. The electric power plant finally began to operate at 1500, but quickly stopped again; it had run out of gasoline. As a result, nothing was accomplished that day, and not a cubic meter of timber was cut.

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The following 3 days, the situation was the same. All machines stood idle, since there was no gasoline. There was fuel at the logging point, 9 kilometers away, but it was difficult to transport fuel from this distance.

The machinery situation is deplorable. Two electric power plants, received months ago, are still standing under the open sky and are becoming rustier and rustier. When Klimov, chief engineer of the Suoyarvi Timber Management, visited Maysul, he walked unconcernedly by them and did not even call the situation to the attention of the chief of the timber center. Power plants in the forest are similarly exposed to wind and rain. Although ordered as far back as August, gasoline gauges have not been installed on even one of the four electric power plants.

The power plants operate only 3-4 hours per day. When power for the electric saws is cut off, felling ceases. Soon skidding and loading cease also. Everyone sits and waits. The chief of the logging point has stopped coming into the forest. And, naturally, the plan is not being fulfilled.

The situation at Maysul is causing the workers great concern. Therefore, they appeal through this paper to the administration of the Zapkarelles Trust and the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry of the republic with the question, "When will our enforced idleness end? We want to work, and fulfill our pre-October Anniversary obligations."

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